BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

A Second LETTER

TO THE

AUTHOR of a Book, Entituled, *An Answer to* W.P. *his Key about the Light within.*

From *Edmund Elys*, sometime Fellow in *Bal. Coll.* in *OXFORD.*

SIR,

I Grant that if I should expose to *Publick View* any Assertion of yours in your *Private Letter* to me, that you your self in the same, or in *equivalent* Terms have not declar'd to the World, you might have some Pretence to charge me with *Incivility*: But certainly there cannot be the least Appearance of any Grounds for such a Charge in this, that I endeavour before all the World to convince you and your *Adherents* of the Falshood of this Conceit, That "*there is not a tittle in all the Scripture that points at Christ,* "*as a Light within every Man's Conscience.* This you could not say (I speak as in HIS Presence, who is *Ready to judge the Quick and the Dead*) but by the Instigation of the *Prince of* DARKNESS. If it be Evident in the *Holy Scripture* that CHRIST is the True and

110. f. 123. (10)

Eternal GOD, it is Evident that He is *a Light within every Man's Conſcience:* For GOD IS LIGHT, LIGHT *INFINITE:* So that there can be no *Spiritual, or Intellectual* ILLUMINATION, but what comes directly, and immediately from GOD. By CONSCIENCE we are to underſtand the *Knowledge* of the Law of GOD, of that which GOD Commands us to do, or to reſtrain from Doing, joyn'd with the *Knowledge* of our own Conformity, or Diſformity thereunto. By *Light within the Conſcience* we are to underſtand *That*, by which we ſee, or perceive clearly, and Effectually what it is that GOD Commands us to do, or reſtrain from Doing: And by which we perceive our own Obedience, or Diſobedience, our Conformity, or Diſformity to the Will of GOD. The Effect of this Sight, or Perceivance is the EXCUSING, or ACCUSING of our ſelves in the Sight of GOD, from which ariſes our Delight in GOD through an effectual Apprehenſion of his *Goodneſs*, or *Veneration of Spirit* for being Repugnant to *his Holy Will*, the Fountain of All *Intellectual* Complacency, and Satisfaction.

I deſire you would Read all the Papers which have been Publiſht for me; which are Sold by *Thomas Northcott*, in *George-yard*, in *Lombard-ſtreet*. I alſo deſire you wou'd peruſe a Treatiſe, Entituled, *The Spirit of Truth Vindicated*, Written by my Honour'd Friend *W. P.* in which you will ſee the moſt Horrid and Deteſtable Falſhood of one of thoſe *Alſurd, and Contradictory Calumnies, viz.* That he is a PAPIST, yea, that he is a JESUITE, And that he is a SOCINIAN. Whether he be a SOCINIAN let any Man judge after he ſhall have read theſe Words, in the beginning of that Treatiſe: " I cannot but eſteem it a peculiar Providence of " Mercy from the Moſt High GOD, *to us his poor deſpiſed People,* " *tho'* an Inſtance of great Unkindneſs in our Adverſary, that after " our ſeveral Years preſſure, *under the heavy Calumnies of being* " *involv'd with a Socinian Confederacy, he ſhould* ſo ſuffer it to come " to paſs, that without the leaſt Provocation given on our Parts,

" *one*

" *one of that ſort of Men ſhould become our Compurgator*, indeed " our beſt Advocate in pleading againſt us; for whilſt he goes a- " bout to detect the *Quakers* of an Erronious Spirit, *it is to be ſup- " poſed that he denies them any ſhare in his; and therefore no So- " cinians.*

I deſire that in all your Diſputes with me, or Mr. *PENN*, *About the Light within*, you would moſt Serioufly Conſider that within a very ſhort Time You, and He, and I muſt give an Account of All our Thoughts, Words, Actions, and Omiſſions to the LORD Our GOD, who has been pleas'd to *reveal* Himſelf unto us in the *Holy Scripture* under the Appellation of LIGHT, and LOVE.

I am Your Servant,

And the Servant of All Men,

In the Love of the Truth,

Edmund Elys.

POSTSCRIPT.

SInce the Writing of this I have ſeen Mr. *PENN*'s *Reply*, in which I find you have no Juſt Cauſe to make any ſuch Reflection on him, as if he had Contradicted himſelf, and me, in that we both have ſaid that CHRIST is *The Light within Man*. You ſay *W. P.* " *Blames you for faſly and unfairly repreſenting the* " *Quakers Faith in this point, becauſe you ſay the Quakers ſay that* " *the Light within is God, and Chriſt.* Mr. *PENN*'s Words are theſe, *Reply*, *P.* 53, 54. " Now tho' with a fair Adverſary, one " might ſay without Offence, that God, or Chriſt is *The Light* " *within*

" *within Man*, yet it is not the common way of our Expreſſing our " ſelves. To be ſure we have no ſuch meaning in that way of " ſpeaking, as ſome Adverſaries ſtrain our Words to, as if God, " and Chriſt were Comprehenſible in, and by Man, to render us " Abſurd, and Blaſphemous. I entreat you to conſider how great a Multitude in this Kingdom have provok'd the Wrath of GOD *by Calumniating* this Gentleman, Clamouring againſt him as if he was a PAPIST, yea a JESUITE. Is it *Popery* to aſſert that the *Principal* RULE of Faith to a Sincere Chriſtian is That, which Almighty GOD has WRITTEN in the Hearts of All Men? This the People call'd Quakers do affirm; and in this I fully Concur with them: And, I ſay, for want of a due Belief of this *The whole World lyeth in Wickedneſs.*

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